



# Namibia Nature Foundation

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### Community-Based Natural Resource Business Marathon (CBNRMathon)

The Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) invites applications for the Community-Based Natural Resource Business Marathon (CBNRMathon) V2, a business acceleration and grant support platform designed to strengthen nature-based enterprises operating within Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) across Namibia.

The initiative seeks to unlock enterprise opportunities linked to conservation, sustainable natural resource management, and rural livelihoods by supporting innovative entrepreneurs and community enterprises operating within conservancies, community forests, fisheries reserves, and related community-based structures.

CBNRMathon V2 builds on the success of the first cohort implemented between 2023 and 2025, which supported emerging enterprises in sectors such as Indigenous Natural Products, horticulture, leather production, and value-added natural resource products. The programme demonstrated the importance of combining grant financing with structured mentorship, business development support, and market linkage opportunities.

#### BACKGROUND

Namibia's Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) programme has contributed significantly to conservation and rural development through conservancies, community forests, fisheries reserves, and other community-based institutions. These landscapes generate opportunities linked to wildlife, forestry, tourism, fisheries, agriculture, and Indigenous Natural Products.

Despite these opportunities, many rural entrepreneurs and conservation stewards continue to face barriers such as limited access to finance, inadequate business development support, weak market access, and limited technical mentorship. As a result, many promising nature-based enterprises struggle to grow into sustainable income-generating businesses.

The CBNRMathon V2 aims to address these challenges by supporting entrepreneurs and community enterprises that demonstrate strong potential to create livelihoods while promoting sustainable natural resource use and conservation.

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

The objective of the CBNRMathon V2 is to strengthen conservation outcomes and household livelihoods by providing grant financing, business acceleration support, mentorship, and enterprise development opportunities for nature-based businesses





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## WHAT SUPPORT WILL SELECTED BENEFICIARIES RECEIVE?

Selected applicants will participate in a structured business acceleration programme and may receive:

- Grant funding support of up to N\$40,000 per project
- Business acceleration and entrepreneurship training
- Financial literacy and business management support
- Mentorship and technical advisory support
- Market access and value-chain linkage opportunities
- Support in developing business profiles and business plans
- Guidance on branding, marketing, and enterprise growth

The programme will also include ongoing mentorship and monitoring support to strengthen enterprise sustainability and growth.

## WHO CAN APPLY?

The CBNRMathon V2 is open to:

- Individual entrepreneurs operating within conservancies, community forests, fisheries reserves, and related community-based organisations
- Existing nature-based enterprises
- Community-based organisation (CBO) affiliated enterprises
- Community conservation enterprises
- Sustainable agriculture enterprises
- Inland fisheries and fisheries-related enterprises
- Forestry and Indigenous Natural Product enterprises
- Micro-tourism enterprises
- Wildlife and livestock value-addition enterprises

Women-led groups, youth between the ages of 18–34, persons with disabilities, marginalised communities, and vulnerable groups are strongly encouraged to apply.

## ELIGIBILITY ENTERPRISE TYPES

Eligible enterprises must demonstrate sustainable use, management, conservation, or value addition of natural resources and may include, but are not limited to:

### Indigenous Natural Products and Forestry Enterprises

- Devil's Claw products
- Marula oil and mongongo oil production
- Baobab products
- Honey production and processing





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- Forest-based products and value addition
- Sustainable harvesting and processing initiatives

## **Sustainable Agriculture Enterprises**

- Horticulture and food production
- Climate-smart agriculture
- Agroecology initiatives
- Community gardens and nurseries
- Irrigation-based enterprises
- Seedling production and agricultural value chains

## **Micro-tourism and Community Conservation Services**

- Cultural tourism experiences
- Guided nature walks
- Community campsites
- Conservation tourism initiatives
- Birdwatching and stargazing activities
- Traditional knowledge and cultural enterprises

## **Inland Fisheries and Fisheries-related Enterprises**

- Fish processing and value addition
- Aquaculture initiatives
- Sustainable fisheries enterprises
- Fisheries-related community enterprises

## **Wildlife and Livestock Value-addition Enterprises**

- Leather products and crafts
- Hide and skin processing
- Wool and fibre products
- Meat and livestock value-addition initiatives

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

### **Applicants must:**

- Operate within one of the eligible regions: Omaheke, Kavango East, Kavango West, Zambezi, Erongo, and Kunene
- Demonstrate a clear link between the business and sustainable natural resource use
- Clearly explain how the enterprise will benefit the community or CBO





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- Submit a support letter from the conservancy, community forest, fisheries reserve, or relevant CBO confirming affiliation or membership
- Demonstrate commitment to enterprise growth and sustainability

## Community benefits may include:

- Skills transfer
- Job creation
- Support to vulnerable groups
- Income generation
- Social responsibility initiatives
- Conservation stewardship

## HOW TO APPLY

Applicants are required to complete the [Official CBNRMathon V2 application form](#) available on the Namibia Nature Foundation website.

Applicants may also strengthen their submissions by attaching photos of the business, products, activities and or concept. Supporting documents can also be essential.

Applications should clearly explain:

- The business idea or enterprise
- The natural resources involved
- The expected community and conservation impact
- The current business challenges
- The type of support required
- Why the applicant should be selected

All attachments can be sent to:

EMAIL: [nshipiki@nnf.org.na](mailto:nshipiki@nnf.org.na)

SUBJECT LINE: Name of Applicant\_Entity\_CBNRMathon

**DEADLINE: 12 June 2026 at 17h00**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For enquiries and additional information, please contact Namibia Nature Foundation:

Ms. Ndinelago Shipiki





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